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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

TO THE FALMOUTH AND TRURO PORT HEALTH

AUTHORITY, FOR THE YEAR ENDING ,

December 31st, 1937.

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Midland Bank Chambers,
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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH TO THE
FALMOUTH AND TRURO PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY FOR
THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1937.

To :-

THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
FALMOUTH AND TRURO PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY.

Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in submitting the Annual Report for the past year, 1937.

During the year I have paid one hundred and seventy-six (176) visits to vessels of all Nationalities, which shews an increase of thirty-eight (38) compared with the previous year.

The incidence of infectious diseases shews twenty (20) cases, as compared with twelve (12) the previous year.

There were fifteen (15) cases suffering from Malaria, three (3) from Typhoid Fever, and two (2) from Acute Polio-Myelitis. Thirteen cases of Malaria occurred on board a ship arriving here from Dakar, and I have reported more fully on these cases further on in this Annual Report. The other two cases suffering from the benign form of Malaria were found on a vessel calling at this port from Abadan in the Persian Gulf.

Two (2) cases of Typhoid Fever occurred on board a Spanish Destroyer undergoing repairs at the docks. The third case was landed in a moribund condition from a vessel arriving here from a foreign port.

One case of Polio-Myelitis was found on board a ship recently returned from a voyage of exploration in the Antarctic regions.

The other case occurred on board a large passenger ship refitting at the docks and proved rapidly fatal.

In this latter case an epidemic outbreak was feared, owing to the large number of contacts of a youthful age. Every precaution was taken and the thirteen boys who were contacts were isolated for ten days at your Isolation hospital, no other accommodation being available, either aboard the ship or ashore. Three other contacts had already travelled home on leave, and the Medical Officers of Health of their respective towns were warned of the suspicious circumstances of this case.

Fortunately there were no further cases.

Influenza did not occur in epidemic form afloat this year, only a few cases being met with and these of quite a mild character.

The incidence of venereal disease in your Port shews ten (10) cases, as compared with fourteen (14) the previous year.

The number of deratization and exemption certificates issued during the year, totalling seventy-seven (77), shews a decrease of twenty-two (22) in comparison with last year.

Your Isolation Hospital has been cared for and maintained in a proper and satisfactory manner.

Changes are pending and the time is coming when the Authority will not have its own separate hospital but will be dependent on others for accommodation. It behoves this Authority now to see that such accommodation is amply provided for its needs which will probably be increasing in the future. There were three cases admitted to the hospital during the year, two suffering from Typhoid Fever and one from Polio-Myelitis. The nursing of these cases was efficiently carried out by your Superintendent and his wife, with the help of one night-nurse.

With the Shipping industry in a healthier condition the number of vessels lying up the River Fal has gradually dwindled, and the average for the year has generally been one ship only at a time.

Periodical inspections have taken place during the year, and there has been no cause for complaint with regard to sanitary conditions. The usual methods have been regularly carried out to exterminate the rats.

Thirty-nine (39) vessels proceeding to American ports were issued the special Bills of Health required by the United States of America: a decrease of four (4) over the previous year.

Forty-six (46) seamen, sailing in ships for American ports, who had not been previously vaccinated, were vaccinated against Small Pox during the year.

An inspection of the sanitary conditions of the Percuil River, St. Mawes, and the various house-boats using the shore of this river was carried out during the summer months. There was nothing really insanitary to complain about, but the owners of the various house-boats were warned to keep these boats and the adjoining beach in a healthy sanitary condition.

All sewage is taken away and deposited in the deep water in the centre of the creek, well away from the proximity of the oyster beds.

I will now pass to my report in detail, where you will find a record of the work carried out by this Authority for the past year under appropriate headings.

Any permanent arrangements which have been fully described in previous Annual Reports and have not been altered are omitted from this Report for the year 1937.

TABLE "A". I. Amount of Shipping entering the Port during the year.

	Number	Tonnage	Number inspected		Number reported to be defective:	Number of Vessels on which defects were remedied	Number of Vessels reported as having, or having had, during the voyage infectious disease on board.
			By the Medical Officer of Health.	By the Sanitary Inspector			
FOREIGN	(Steamers	243	474,596	181	47	47	5
	(★ Motor	202	319,916	149	28	28	1
	(Sailing	-	-	-	-	-	-
	(Fishing	68	9,705	3	-	-	-
Total Foreign		513	804,217	333	75	75	6
COASTWISE	(Steamers	214	433,526	168	21	21	-
	(★ Motor	231	359,874	183	38	38	-
	(Sailing	77	9,209	27	17	17	-
	(Fishing	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Coastwise		522	802,609	378	76	76	Nil
TOTAL Foreign and Coastwise)		1035	1606,826	711	151	151	6

★ Includes mechanically propelled vessels other than steamers.

II. CHARACTER OF TRADE OF PORT.

TABLE "B"

(a) Passenger Traffic during the year.

Number of Passengers	1st. Class	2nd. Class	3rd. Class	Transmigrants.
Inwards ...	43	-	-	-
Outwards ...	182	-	-	-

(b) Cargo Traffic:

PRINCIPAL IMPORTS :-

General Cargo by the Coast Lines Company's Ships.

A little coal, barley, maize and oats.

PRINCIPAL EXPORTS :-

General cargo, and some tin, arsenic, and china clay.

(c) Foreign Ports from which vessels arrive:

Abadan, from which port a large number of ships arriving at this port hail from, though some may call in the Continental ports, or in other English ports on the way here.

The Channel Islands and Irish Free State.

The Continental ports, including Norway and Sweden.

The Mediterranean ports, New Zealand and Australian ports, Canary Islands and Cape Verde Islands. Constantinople and the Black Sea ports. The Dutch West Indies, Tampico, Galveston and New Orleans in Central America. The South American Ports.

An occasional vessel arrives from Canada, the United States of America, Newfoundland, and Finland.

There is no direct passenger traffic except in regard to the French, Dutch and Belgian ports.

III. WATER SUPPLY.

(1) Source of supply for :-

(a) The Port:

A large reservoir at Budock belonging to the Falmouth Town Council.

(b) For Shipping:

There is now only one source of supply: the Falmouth Town Council's reservoir already described above. The Admiralty reservoir at Mylor used to furnish a second supply but it was considered unsuitable after a sample had been sent for analysis on November 22nd, 1936.

(2) Hydrants and hosepipes. What precautions are taken against contamination ?

These are well flushed through before the water is passed into the tanks.

(3) Number of water boats and their sanitary condition.

There is now one boat which attends on shipping in the port. This boat is periodically inspected and has always been found in a satisfactorily healthy condition.

IV. PORT SANITARY REGULATIONS, 1933.

(1) Arrangements for dealing with Declarations of Health.

(2) Boarding of vessels on arrival.

(3) Notification to the Authority of inward vessels requiring special attention (wireless messages, land signal stations, information from pilots, Customs Officers, etc., etc.)

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PORT SANITARY REGULATIONS, 1933 (Continued)

- (4) Mooring stations designated under Article 10 :-
 - (a) within the docks,
 - (b) outside the docks.
- (5) Particulars of any standing exemptions from the provisions of Article 14.
- (6) Experience of working of Article 16.
- (7) What, if any, arrangements have been made for :-
 - (a) Premises and waiting rooms for medical examination;
 - (b) Cleansing and disinfection of ships, persons and clothing and other articles.
 - (c) Premises for the temporary accommodation of persons for whom such accommodation is required for the purpose of the Regulations.
 - (d) Hospital accommodation available for Plague, Cholera, Yellow Fever, Smallpox and other infectious diseases.
 - (e) Ambulance transport.
 - (f) Supervision of contacts.

These are permanent arrangements which have been fully described in my previous Annual Report and have not been altered.

- (8) Arrangements for the bacteriological or pathological
examination of rats for plague.
- (9) Arrangements for other bacteriological or
pathological examinations.

(8) and (9): Dr F.D.M.Hocking, pathologist to the Royal Cornwall Infirmary, Truro, undertakes all pathological and

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bacteriological examinations for this Authority.

- (10) Arrangements for the diagnosis and treatment of venereal disease among sailors under international arrangements.
- (11) Arrangements for the interment of dead.
- (12) Other matters, if any, requiring or receiving attention.

(10), (11) and (12). There are permanent arrangements which have been fully described in my previous Annual Report and have not been altered.

T A B L E "C"

Cases of Infectious sickness landed from Vessels.

Disease	No. of Cases during the year		No. of Vessels concerned.	Average No. of Cases for previous 5 years
	Passengers	Crew		
Malaria	-	15	Two	0.6
Typhoid Fever	-	3	Two	1.4
Acute Polio-Myelitis	-	2	Two	Nil

T A B L E "D"

Cases of Infectious Sickness occurring on Vessels during the voyage, but disposed of prior to arrival:-

Disease	No. of Cases during the year		No. of Vessels concerned	Average No. of Cases for previous 5 years
	Passengers	Crew		
-	Nil	Nil	-	0.8

REPORT ON CASES OF MALARIA

On one occasion a vessel arrived at this Port from Dakar in W.Africa with thirteen cases of Malaria on board.

One case who was already comatose was brought ashore immediately, a smear of his blood being taken and sent on to the pathologist at Truro to confirm the diagnosis. The report stated that the blood showed the parasites of malignant subtertian malaria.

One other case was also found to be suffering from malignant malaria, and both of these cases died in hospital.

The other eleven cases were found to be suffering from benign tertian malaria and all recovered in hospital ashore. There were no other cases of sickness on board and a medical inspection revealed the rest of the crew quite healthy. As far as one could make out all precautions had been taken on board ship, but the men probably got bitten by malarial infested mosquitoes when they were ashore after sunset in this unhealthy port.

V. MEASURES AGAINST RODENTS.

- (1) Steps taken for detection of rodent plague:
 - (a) In ships in the port.
 - (b) On quays, wharves, warehouses, etc., in the vicinity of the port.
- (2) Measures taken to prevent the passage of rats between ships and the shore.
- (3) Measures of deratisation of :-
 - (a) Ships:

- (b) Premises in the vicinity of docks or quays.
- (4) Measures taken for the detection of rat prevalence in ships and on shore.
- (5) Rat-proofing:
 - (a) To what extent are docks, wharves, warehouses etc., rat proof ?
 - (b) Action taken to extend rat-proofing:
 - (i) in ships:
 - (ii) on shore.

(1) to (5). There are permanent arrangements which have been described in my previous Annual Report and have not been altered.

TABLE "E"
RATS DESTROYED DURING THE YEAR.

(1) On Vessels:

Number of Rats	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total in year
Black	(((((((((((((
Brown	(((((Nil	(((((((
Species not recorded	6	4	21	14	-	17	4	-	119	10	57	3	255
Examined	-	-	One	-	-	-	-	-	One	-	-	-	
Infected with plague	-	-	Nega- tive	-	-	-	-	-	Nega- tive	-	-	-	

TABLE "F"
(2) In Docks, Quays, Wharves and Warehouses

Number of Rats	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total in year
Black)	(((((((((((((
)	(((((Nil	(((((((
Brown)	(((((((((((((
Species not recorded	5	12	14	11	7	27	8	4	2	10	48	5	153
Examined	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Infected with plague)	(((((Nil	(((((((

T A B L E "G"

Measures of Rat Destruction on Plague "infected" or "suspected" Vessels or Vessels from
plague infected ports arriving in Port during the Year.

Total No. of such vessels arriving	Number of such vessels fumigated by SO ₂	Number of Rats killed	Number of such Vessels fumigated by HCN	Number of Rats killed	Number of such Vessels on which trapping, poison- ing &c. were employed	Number of Rats killed	Number of such Vessels on which measures of Rat destruction were <u>not carried out.</u>
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.
Two	Nil	-	Nil	-	Nil	-	Two

T A B L E "H" *

Deratisation Certificates and Deratisation Exemption Certificates issued during the year.

Net Tonnage	No. of Ships	No. of Deratisation Certificates issued					No. of Deratisation Certificates Issued.	Total Certificates Issued
		After fumigation with		After Trapping, Poisoning etc.	TOTAL			
		HCN Sulphur	HCN and Sulphur					
						3.		
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.
Ships up to 300 tons ...	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
" from 301 tons to 1,000 tons	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
" " 1001 " " 3,000 "	11	1	3	-	-	4	7	11
" " 3001 " " 10,000 "	62	3	10	-	-	13	49	62
" over 10,000 tons	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	77	4	13	-	-	17	60	77

* Applicable only to those Ports approved by the Minister of Health for the issue of Deratisation Certificates and Deratisation Exemption Certificates in accordance with the provisions of Article 28 of the International Sanitary Convention, 1926. (Form Port II.)

VI. HYGIENE OF CREWS' SPACES.

In this respect there has not been much cause for serious complaint. It was found necessary to have the water tanks cleaned out and fresh water taken on board in twenty-four (24) ships calling here during the year. In sixty-one (61) other vessels the forecastles and lavatories were put in a proper sanitary state before the ships sailed from this port.

All other defects have been quickly remedied on the few occasions I have had to call attention to them, and it has never been necessary for the Sanitary Inspector to serve notices on the Captains of any ships for the year.

TABLE "J"
CLASSIFICATION OF NUISANCES.

Nationality	Number inspected during the year	Defects of original construction	Structural defects through wear and tear	Dirt, vermin and other conditions prejudicial to health
British	421	-	15	59
Other Nations	290	-	17	60

VII. FOOD INSPECTION.

(1) Action taken under the Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations, 1925, the Public Health (Imported Food) Amendment Regulations, 1933; the Public Health (Imported Milk) Regulations, 1926, and the Public Health (Preservatives, etc., in Food) Regulations, 1925 to 1927.

No action has been deemed necessary during the past year.

(2) SHELL-FISH: Information respecting any shell-fish beds or layings within the jurisdiction of the P.S.A. stating whether they are in the opinion of the Medical Officer liable to pollution. Report of any action taken under the Public Health (Shell-fish) Regulations, 1934, or the Public Health (Cleansing of Shell-fish) Act, 1932.

(2) SHELL-FISH: There is nothing to add to what I have already stated in previous years .

Any available information on the following points:-

(1) the places to which shell-fish taken from layings in the district are sent to be marketed.

(2) (i) The majority are sent up to London.

(ii) The layings from which shell-fish (specifying the kinds of shell-fish) which may be marketed in the district, are derived.

(2) (ii) Oysters from the Helford River and Percuil river.

(3) Number of Samples of Food examined by:-

(a) Bacteriologist.

<u>Nature of Sample.</u>	<u>Result of Examination.</u>
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(b) Analyst.

<u>Nature of Sample.</u>	<u>Result of Examination.</u>
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There have been no samples examined during the year.

That concludes the Report, and I should like to say here that your Sanitary Inspector has carried out his duties as efficiently as ever.

Lastly, my grateful thanks are due to the Surveyor of Customs and his Preventive Officers for their ready help accorded to me in the discharge of my duties.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

HOWARD V. DEAKIN.
